

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please enter the following claims.

Claim 1-24 (Canceled)

25. (New) A method for improving the accuracy of optical detection in a quantitative polymerase chain reaction, comprising carrying out said polymerase chain reaction in the presence of an effective amount of at least one anti-foam reagent that does not substantially inhibit the action of the polymerase, and detecting the product of said polymerase chain reaction.

26. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein said polymerase chain reaction is a hot start polymerase chain reaction.

27. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein said polymerase chain reaction is a reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction

28. (New) The method according to claim 25, comprising detecting said product using a fluorescent nucleic acid-binding dye.

29. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein said polymerase chain reaction is carried out in the presence of an effective amount of at least two anti-foam reagents.

30. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein said anti-foam agent is selected from the group consisting of 1520-US, AF, FG-10, O-30, SE-15, and Antifoam B.

31. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein said at least two anti-foam reagents are selected from the group consisting of 1520-US, AF, FG-10, O-30, SE-15, and Antifoam B.

32. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein said polymerase chain reaction is carried out using *Taq* DNA polymerase.

33. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein said polymerase chain reaction is carried out in a sample chamber of a device comprising a plurality of said sample chambers.

34. (New) The method according to claim 33, wherein each of a plurality of said sample chambers of said device contains reagents suitable for detecting a target nucleic acid.

35. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein a plurality of sample chambers of said device contains reagents suitable for detecting different target nucleic acids.

36. (New) The method according to claim 35, further comprising detecting the amplified products in said sample chambers by optical detection.

37. (New) The method according to claim 41, comprising detecting said amplified products using a fluorescent nucleic acid-binding dye.

38. (New) A composition for amplifying a target nucleic acid, comprising

(a) at least one primer molecule that hybridizes to the target nucleic acid;

(b) nucleotide triphosphates;

(c) a thermostable DNA polymerase;

(d) a detergent;

(e) an effective amount of at least one anti-foam reagent that does not substantially inhibit the action of said thermostable DNA polymerase; and

(f) a probe labeled with a detectable label.

39. (New) A composition according to claim 38, comprising at least two anti-foam reagents.

40. (New) A composition according to claim 38, wherein said anti-foam agent is selected from the group consisting of 1520-US, AF, FG-10, O-30, SE-15, and Antifoam B.

41. (New) The composition according to claim 39, wherein said at least two anti-foam reagents are selected from the group consisting of 1520-US, AF, FG-10, O-30, SE-15, and Antifoam B.

42. (New) The composition according to claim 38, wherein said thermostable DNA polymerase is *Taq* DNA polymerase.